

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 OC-05 CCO-00 /020 W

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R 052135Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4668

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 6058

STATE FOR CU

USIA FOR ILA, IMV, IBS, IPS

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: ACOM, OEXC, CI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AIR POUCH DELAYS

REF: STATE 207784

1. LIKE DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY AND ALL AGENCIES SERIOUSLY CONCERNED POSSIBILITY AIR POUCH DELAYS. DURING LAST AIRLINE STRIKE, DELAYS SEVERELY HAMPERED OFFICIAL OPERATIONS, AND NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHICH PERSONALLY EMBARRASSED EMPLOYEES AT ALL LEVELS.

2. WE KNOW DEPT IS AWARE OF TYPE OF DIFFICULTIES STRIKE WILL CAUSE. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS A GUIDE, THERE WILL BE DELAY IN OUTGOING AND INCOMING AIRGRAMS AND OTHER NON-TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING IVP AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, WHICH EITHER CANNOT BE SENT TELEGRAPHICALLY OR WOULD MEAN CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL COST IF CABLES USED. MANY DEADLINES FOR CU AND OTHER ACTIONS WILL BE MISSED BECAUSE COMMUNICATIONS BEING HELD UP IN MIAMI UNTIL AIRLINE STRIKE IS OVER.

3. DELAYS IN MIAMI WILL ALSO CAUSE SEVERE PROBLEMS FOR USIS MEDIA WORK. USIS RECEIVES FILMS, VIDEOTAPES, TV NEWS CLIPS, AUDIO TAPES, IPS BACKGROUND MATERIALS, PHOTO AND FEATURE
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STORIES AND NEWS PICTURES, BESIDES AUDIOVISUAL SUPPLIES

VIA AIR POUCH. MANY OF FILMS ARE ON LOAN BASIS AND MUST BE RECEIVED AND RETURNED TO WASHINGTON ON TIGHT SCHEDULE. RADIO SERVICE TO ALMOST 50 CHILEAN STATIONS DEPENDS ON REGULAR RECEPTION OF VOA TAPES. USIS WILL ENCOUNTER SERIOUS PROGRAMMING DIFFICULTIES IF POUCHES DELAYED.

4. WE KNOW DEPARTMENT WILL EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF UNCLASSIFIED MATERIALS, INCLUDING USE OF COURIER AND USAF C-141. FOREGOING DETAILS MAY SEVERE TO EXPEDITE PROCESS.
POPPER

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NNN

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